## HARRY CRAWFORD FRANKENFIELD, 1862–1929

The Weather Bureau has just sustained a serious loss in the death of Harry Crawford Frankenfield on July 29, 1929. While crossing Madison Place, Washington, D. C., about 8 p. m., July 22, he was knocked down and severely injured by an automobile operated by a hit-and-run driver. Doctor Frankenfield was taken immediately to Emergency Hospital where he lingered until the 29th when the end came.

He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with military and masonic honors.

Doctor Frankenfield was born at Easton, Pa., on November 24, 1862; was graduated from Lafayette College in 1881 with the A. B. degree and he received the A. M. degree in 1884. He also held the degree of M. D. from Howard University, of Washington, D. C.

Upon graduation from college he enlisted in the United States Signal Corps and after passing through the several courses at the School of Instruction of the Signal Service at Fort Whipple (now Fort Myer, Va.), he was detailed for duty at the central office of that service in Washington, D. C. Here he came under the notice and attention of Gen. A. W. Greely, then Chief Signal Officer.

General Greely, among all of the bureau chiefs of the Federal Weather Service (and the writer of this note has served under each of them), had his own particular way of becoming acquainted with the work of his subordinates. It was the general's custom to make almost daily a quiet informal inspection of the several branches and divisions of his office and he naturally soon came to know not only the name of each employee, but also the nature of the work he was performing and he had, moreover, an almost uncanny way of telling whether the work was being done to the best advantage. Young Frankenfield soon gained the general's approval and it is not therefore surprising that in 1887, without previous experience in charge of Signal Service stations, he should be selected for charge of the Chicago station, one of the most important stations of the Federal Weather Service.

He succeeded to charge of the St. Louis station in 1894 and was next detailed to duty in the central office of the Weather Bureau in Washington, in 1898, as a national forecaster.

Frankenfield brought to this position a mind of the most nimble sort; he was unusually quick to visualize the general ensemble of the weather charts from day to day and with experience soon became a successful forecaster. His contributions to the art will be found in Weather Forecasting in the United States and other papers.

The work in which his interest was greatest, however, was not weather forecasting but the prediction of floods in the main rivers of the country. The amount of labor devoted to this subject was prodigious; as a result his knowledge of the idiosyncrasies of the relations between rainfall and run-off in the rivers of the United States is not surpassed by any one. Many of his contributions in this field having but a local interest have not been published but are preserved in manuscript at the several Weather Bureau stations. His papers on the historic floods in the great rivers of the country may be found in the series of Weather Bureau bulletins, letter file, and also among the supplements to the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW.

Doctor Frankenfield was also the author of Weather Bureau Bulletin, F Kite Observations of 1898 and many shorter papers. For recreation he enjoyed a game of bridge and played a fair game of billiards, notwithstanding a very unorthodox style of stroking the cue ball. He was fond of walking and professional baseball games, but he eschewed golf and other forms of physical exercise.

He was a member of the Philosophical Society of Washington, the Washington Academy of Sciences, the Cosmos Club, and a fellow of the American Meteorological Society. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity having served as master of his lodge.

Doctor Frankenfield is survived by his wife Katherine Thornton Frankenfield and a sister Miss Flora Frankenfield. He will be remembered by his many friends within and without the Weather Bureau for his genial ways, his open, frank criticisms, and the loyalty to the friends he made and held. To the field men of the service he was without doubt the best known of the Washington office officials; to them and his many friends wherever found his untimely passing away will be a grievous loss.—*A. J. H.*

## NOTES, ABSTRACTS, AND REVIEWS

*Dr. J. Patterson becomes director of the Canadian Meteorological Service.*—The following letter will be of much interest to all readers of the REVIEW:

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE,
*Toronto, July 11, 1929.*

DEAR PROFESSOR MARVIN: Sir Frederic Stupart retired from the position of director the 30th, June, and I have been appointed to succeed him. It shall ever be my desire to continue and develop the happy relationship that has always existed between the two services. I shall at all times be pleased to do anything in my power to advance our common interests.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) J. PATTERSON.

Prof. C. F. MARVIN,
*Washington, D. C.*

The retiring director, Sir Frederic Stupart, entered the Canadian Meteorological Service in 1873, thus serving about 57 years. In 1894 he was made director. In 1916 he was knighted. Since Doctor Patterson has been associated with Sir Frederic for a great many years it is gratifying to know that the same cordial relations that have always existed between the meteorological services of the two countries will continue.—*Ed.*

*R. De C. Ward's proposed guidebook to the world's weather and climates.*—Prof. Robert De C. Ward, of Harvard University, in an address before the American Philosophical Society in April, 1928, suggested that the compilation of a guidebook to the weather and climates of the world would serve an extremely useful and educational purpose. "A complete guidebook," said Professor Ward, "should include three aspects of the general subject with which it deals. It should give descriptions of characteristic weather types, as, e. g., a typical day in the heart of the trade-wind belt at sea; a winter spell of bright, sunny weather in the Alps; a cold wave in the eastern United States; a summer rainy spell on the highlands of Scotland, and so on. It should next give simple but scientifically accurate descriptions of special local meteorological phenomena, such as the winter monsoon on the west coast of Japan; the 'cloud drip' on the island of Ascension; the typhoons of the eastern seas. Thirdly, it should give vivid descriptive accounts of the various climates to be met with in different parts of the world and their economic and general human relations, as, for example, the damp marine coast climate of Alaska,